

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 23, 2004. Claims 1, 4 to 6, 14, 16 to 22, and 25 to 27 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter thereof. Claims 2, 3, 7 to 13, 15, 23, 24, and 28 to 43 are in the application, of which Claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23, 24, 28 and 36 are the independent claims, and Claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23 and 24 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner's indication that Claims 28 to 43 are allowed, and that Claims 2, 3, 7 to 13, 15, 23 and 24 contain allowable subject matter, is acknowledged with appreciation. In response, and in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 2, 3, 7 to 13, 15, 23 and 24 are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4 to 6, 14, 16 to 22, and 25 to 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,437,067 (Malin). Since Claims 1, 4 to 6, 14, 16 to 22, and 25 to 27 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

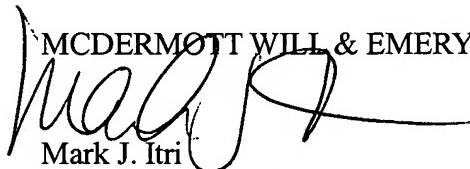
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23, 24, 28 and 36 are believed to be allowable. The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims mentioned above and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Finally, as to a formal matter, Applicants have not yet received a Corrected Filing Receipt in response to the Request For Corrected Filing Receipt dated June 16, 2004. In this regard, Applicants respectfully request that a Corrected Filing Receipt be issued, which reflects that the subject application only claims the priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/502,625, filed September 15, 2003, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/426,070, filed November 12, 2002.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Orange County office by telephone at (949)851-0633. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP
Mark J. Itri
Registration No. 36,171

18191 Von Karman Ave., Suite 400
Irvine, CA 92612-7107
949.851.0633 MJI:dmt
Facsimile: 949.851.9348
Date: September 20, 2004

ORC 346130-1.071226.0011